

25X1

NSC BRIEFING

30 April 1957

BACKGROUND: '57 MAY DAY AIR PARADE

DIA review(s) completed.

I. Ever since Soviet rehearsals for the traditional ~~fly-by~~ ^{AIR PARADE}

on May Day 1955 revealed ^{AN UNEXPECTED RATE OF} that we had been optimistically

~~underestimating~~ ^{(IN THE USSR,} the USSR's heavy bomber production-rate

~~the approach of another May Day fly-by~~ ^{REHEARSALS HAVE RECEIVED} has been a time of

~~particular vigilance for the intelligence community.~~ ^{THE CLOSEST ATTENTION OF}

A. Can never be sure, until 1 May has passed, that we're

not in for another Soviet surprise.

B. This shadow of doubt remains, even though the Sovs have

usually ~~exhibited~~ ^{(MADE USE OF AIR FORCE DAY (IN JUNE), RATHER THAN MAY DAY TO SHOWOFF} their newest aircraft developments on

~~May Force Day (in June)~~ ^{ALTHOUGH} rather than at the May Day parade.

II. Rehearsals for this May Day ~~parade~~ ^{(WEEK'S} fly-by

thusfar ~~have~~ ^{HAVE BEEN INTENSIVE} WE HAVE

~~shown~~ ^{SEEN} no surprises. ~~incorrect~~

A. Rehearsal ~~of~~ ^{(ON} 24 Apr) ~~(the 8th)~~ ^{set new record for THE} total number

of planes ~~165~~ ^{(Involved -}

B. Maximum numbers of various bombers thusfar seen in rehearsals

are as follows: twin-jet TU-16s - - 47 (on 17 Apr); 4-engine

turboprop TU-75s - - 9 (on 24 Apr); 4-jet heavy M-4s - - 10

^(THESE FIGURES ARE IN LINE WITH OUR ESTIMATES @) Of the two types of fighters

thusfar involved, the high counts ^(HAVE) been 60 MIG-19s and 40

YAK-25 all-weather interceptors. ^{THESE FIGURES ARE ALSO IN LINE @}

C. Our Air Force attache in Moscow believes ~~that the intensive~~

~~rehearsal schedule means~~ ^{WANT} the Sovs ~~desire~~ ^{ITEMS ARE} to put on an impressive

show this year, but that ~~if any new items are to be shown~~

~~it will not appear until the actual May Day parade.~~ ^(WE probably WILL NOT SEE THEM) ^{(DAY OF THE}

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